

SECURITY INFORMATION
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Headquarters United States Forces in Austria
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2
A. P. O. No. ~~JZ~~-A, U. S. ARMY

168



Epec
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C+D

Ref: IB/609/52

1 May 1952

SUBJECT: Information on KATYN Forest Incident

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff G2
General Staff U.S. Army
Washington 25, D.C.

1. References: USFA letter, S-2-52, "Information on KATYN Forest Incident," dated 22 April 1952 and USFA letter, IB-609-52, "Information on KATYN Forest Incident," dated 29 April 1952.

2. Forwarded herewith is an additional report from a USFA field agency concerning the KATYN Forest Incident.

3. This office interposes no objection to release of information contained in Inclosure No. 1 to the Congressional Committee investigating the KATYN incident that:

a. Identity of source is properly safeguarded.

b. Identity of source's husband, now deceased, is properly safeguarded.

4. Copy of this report, to include Inclosures, has been forwarded to the Director of Intelligence, Headquarters, European Command, for information only, with instructions that contents are not to be released to Congressional Sub-committee currently in Europe.

1 Incl:

1) L-25994, 24 April 1952

Jan
Edman B. Bothwell
EDMAN B. BOTHWELL
Colonel GS
A/A Chief of Staff G2

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HQ 430th CIC DET

AGENT REPORT

CIC-256 NO. 3 MIL

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

2. DATE SUBMITTED

24 April 1952

KATYN FOREST, MASSACRE OF POLISH OFFICERS, 1940

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO.

L/25994

ACTION:

IB CIB IC OPNS

INFO:

IB CIB IC OPNS

RECORDS FILE

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

The following information concerning the incident of the massacre of approximately ten thousand (10,000) Polish officers in the spring of 1940 in the area called the Katyn Forest, near Smolensk, Russia, was obtained from Mrs. Maria Slowenczik nee Wagner, wife of the now deceased Gregor Slowenczik, former war reporter for the German army, who assisted in reporting this massacre. Mrs. Slowenczik presently resides Wolfsegg 72, Bezirk Voecklabruck, Upper Austria, and was born at this same place 28 July 1919. (Evaluation of Source "F", Evaluation of Information "6".)

Mrs. Slowenczik stated that she had very little material left from the collection which her husband had had upon his return, as the bulk of it had been submitted to the Counter Intelligence Corps through the Voecklabruck Field Office in 1946. The remainder is attached hereto as exhibits, which are listed below:

1. Exhibit I : Teletype message No 1761, 15 April 1943, (report to German Propaganda Ministry by Slowenczik).
2. Exhibit II : Witnesses and investigators.
3. Exhibit III : Another list of witnesses and investigators.
4. Exhibit IV : Descriptions of slides made at the scene of the incident.
5. Exhibits V through XVI : Photographs of personalities present at the scene and general pictorial recording of area (attached to the original only of this report).
6. Exhibit XVII: Map of area of massacre, drawn by Slowenczik (attached to the original only of this report).

FILE CHECK:

There are numerous references to Gregor Slowenczik in the files of this Sub-Detachment, all concerning his involvement in this incident. He was to be charged for suspected war crimes but the charges were dropped. Files also reveal that Slowenczik gave a box of slides to this Detachment in 1946. No reference is made to Mrs. Slowenczik.

AGENT'S NOTE: There is a likelihood that Exhibit IV, description of slides, refers to those slides which were submitted in 1946. Mrs. Slowenczik was extremely concerned about receiving adverse publicity for submitting this information. She is afraid that the local Communists will in some manner effect reprisals upon her. Therefore, she did not want any personal publicity.

Incl #1

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

STEPHEN J. HARTMAN, 430th CIC Det.,
Sub-Det "B" (Linz)

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

Stephen J. Hartman

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AGENT REPORT

KATYN FOREST, MASSACRE OF POLISH OFFICERS, 1940

24 April 1952
L/25994

APPROVED:

Ray A. Nichols

RAY A. NICHOLS
Major Arty
CO Sub-Det "B" (Linz)

Distribution
8 - Hqs 430th CIC
1 - File

STEPHEN J. HARTMAN, 430th CIC Det.,
Sub-Det "B" (Linz)

-2-

Stephen J. Hartman

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EXHIBIT I

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TELETYPE MESSAGE NO 1761, DATED 15 APRIL 1943

Polish legionnaires at the graves of their officers

Russian farmers bear witness against the GPU

Kieselow Parfeon, the 72 year old farmer from Kosegorie, the small hamlet, whose wretched shacks are scattered almost shamefully in the wasteland surrounding the gorgeous GPU functionary rest center on the high bank of the Dnjepr River, this old man Kieselow, for the second time today, stands at the brink of the pit which, only a few days ago, disclosed the horrible sight of the Polish officers slaughtered by the GPU murderers in the spring of 1940.

The old Russian farmer did not want the secret of the massacre of Katyn - that being the name of the nearest larger village, part of which is the murder forest - to be buried with him. He wants to die in peace one day. --- With this confession Kieselow unburdened his old heart on the first day, when his statement showed us the way to the scene of the murders, and by substantially repeating it over and over again, like today before the members of a battalion of Polish volunteers, he corroborates the truth of his words.

Along with Kieselow, the others who volunteered to testify against the bestial bolshevist murderers also swear to the truth of their statements. Iwan Griwarserzew, Malwei Sacherow, Grigor Seliwjerstow, Iwan Andrejew and whatever their names may be, they all relate under oath how the GPU bloodhounds feasted and whored in the small Dnjepr castle, while hardly 500 meters from there the elite of the Polish nation was sadistically butchered, and the anguished cries of the victims almost drowned out the reports of the murdering pistols.

These Russian farmers make their statements gladly and willingly and say whatever they know, but they cannot cope with the barrage of questions fired at them by the former Polish soldiers who have come to visit the graves at Katyn today. For at the time when this doomed human cargo, day by day for many weeks, travelled from the Gniesdowa railroad station to the murder forest, in the spring of 1940, the area in which this crime was perpetrated was completely secluded.

With horror in their eyes, the soldiers look into the vast grave and they all cannot comprehend and hardly believe that this pitiful bundle down there should once have been their military leaders. The Polish officers' boots seem to be the first distinguishing marks they cling to. "There, the topcoat of a first lieutenant", says one, and then another suddenly recognizes the cap and tunic of a major of the traditional "Jan Pilsudski" regiment.

Now they slowly descend to the bottom of the vast, deep pit, walk among bound corpses and scrutinize the faces, of which hardly enough is left to be identified by, for familiar features. "Pan Kapitan" --- it is an excreciating cry, emitting from the little soldier when he, all of a sudden, sees his former captain there, rigid and prone. "He was from my regiment, from the Third Airforce in Poznan --- my God, why did I have to live and see that!---" And when we ask the little soldier for the name of his former captain, and when we learn from a letter

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which we take from the murdered officer's tunic that this Josef Sidor had indeed been a captain in the Third Airforce Regiment in Poznan, we, too, are abruptly seized by the tragical import of this terrible occurrence.

And while the loyal little soldier, kneeling down in front of his captain, sobs his quiet prayer before him and among countless corpses, his comrades continue their search of this horrid scene. Every identifying mark, no matter how small it might be, is thoroughly examined and, time and again, one will recognize a regimental symbol or a particular identification, another decoration or an old souvenir of a past army. It is with horror that these young people turn from this tormenting sight. Their eyes rove through the green forest and none of them can understand how beasts in human shape could possibly have committed such atrocious crimes in the midst of this glorious scenery with its first promise of spring.

The Polish Red Cross comes-----

When, at the close of this burying-ground visit, the German escort officer (pencil notation: "I") is able to assure the Polish volunteers that the German Army has already granted the Polish Red Cross permission to conduct all other identification work, the bitter mourning of the soldiers all at once changes to grateful joy. And many an eye is filled with tears at so much magnanimity, which does not deny a vanquished opponent the final tribute. And these young Polish volunteers, who have lost their fatherland and are now fighting under National Socialist leadership for a new homeland and a new right to live, they know that only a few weeks from now young pines will again grow green over the burying-ground in the Katyn Forest.

But then the young forest's verdure will no longer serve to screen the scene of murder, but to provide for the Polish nation a worthy burying-ground, in which its best sons have now found the last repose.

Propaganda Detachment W
War reporter 1st Lt. Slowenczik

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EXHIBIT II

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It should be noted that, when the German Army occupied Lithuania and Latvia, Captain Buhtz, in a similar capacity, was also assigned the investigation of past cases of mass executions by the GPU. When, in the summer of 1943, common graves of Russian officers who had been executed after the Tuchatschewski trial were discovered in the Orel region, Captain Buhtz also inspected the scene of these executions. Upon his return, he repeatedly stated the fact that the method of execution was exactly identical (shot in the neck, identical method of binding the victims, etc.).

Captain Dr. SCHMIDT. Assigned to Captain Dr. Buhtz. Southern German, approximately 45 years old, brown hair, approximately 175 cm tall, slender. He worked at the scene of the massacre in the Katyn Forest and also produced the preparations needed for the medical examinations.

Dr. Stanislaw WODZINSKI. Pole, approximately 40 years old, above average height, hair and eyes dark. As a physician at the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Cracow, he was entrusted by the Polish Red Cross with the investigation of the case. He was in charge of a group of the Polish Red Cross, consisting of some 10 persons, whose primary mission was to exhume the corpses with the help of Russian laborers, determine the cause of death, identify the victims by means of documents and personal items found on the bodies, and reinter the corpses in decent graves. Dr. Wodzinski agreed with Dr. Buhtz on the method and time of the killings, basing his opinion on his two months' of work on the spot, during which period virtually every corpse passed through his hands. Dr. Wodzinski cannot by any means be denoted as Germanophile. In spite of this, he always released the findings of his investigations to be made public over the radio.

I also remember the names of the following foreign delegation members who came to Katyn:

Former Polish Minister KOSLOWSKI, who, under the impact of what he had seen at the scene of the massacre, addressed the Polish nation over the radio, definitely stating the guilt of the GPU.

Prelate Dr. JASINSKI, who came to Katyn as the representative of the Archbishop of Cracow, and read Holy Mass at the common graves.

Colonel PLAPPERT, who, like I, was a student at the former Infantry Cadet School in Cracow. After a careful examination of all available evidence, he, too, stated definitely that the method of execution distinctly pointed to the GPU.

SKARWINSKI, Secretary General of the Polish Red Cross.

GOEBL or GEBL, member of the Polish "Chamber of Culture".

SMORAWINSKI, who had come to Katyn to identify the corpse of his brother, Brigadier General Smorawinski.

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DELEGATION OF INTERNATIONAL COURT SURGEONS:

This delegation, which was invited by the Foreign Ministry to investigate the massacre, spent several days at Katyn. It included the following gentlemen:

Professor ORSOS, Budapest. Bone and skull specialist. His argumentation produced proof to the effect that the victims had been killed approximately three years previously, that is in the spring of 1940. Since German troops did not come to Katyn until the fall of 1941, that is one and one-half years later, this proof also constitutes a definite clue to the perpetrators of this crime. Similar conclusions were also reached by other members of the delegation, who are listed below:

Professor HAJEK, Czechoslovakia
Professor PALMIERI, Italy
Professor NEVILLE or NAVILLE, Switzerland
Professor COSTEDOTT, France
Professor De BURLET, Belgium or Holland
Professor MILOSLAVITS, Yugoslavia

I can no longer recall the names of the other members of the delegation. However, they can be extracted from the German White Book on the Katyn case, which was published by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The results of the investigations were published in a communique, which was signed by all international court surgeons and then published in the above mentioned White Book.

In conclusion I wish to state that by mentioning the personalities who, to my definite knowledge, played an important part in the discovery and subsequent investigation of the murder of 12,000 Polish officers in a forest near Katyn, I do not intend to harm or expose anyone. I want this statement to serve the truth only and, at the same time, defend myself against that nonsensical report in the press which denoted me as the "inventor of Katyn".

SUPPLEMENT

In connection with the judicial inquiry into the Katyn massacre during the Nuremberg trials, I learned from a press notice that the German defense produced one Colonel Ahrens as a witness. I met Colonel Ahrens in the spring of 1940. He was at that time CO of the 537th Signal Regt, and he and his staff had quarters in the villa-like wooden structure on the Dnjepr bank which, according to statements by the Russian people living in the vicinity, served the functionaries of the Smolensk GPU office as a rest center. According to the above mentioned press notice, Colonel Ahrens is supposed to be at large in the American zone of Germany, while being wanted by the Russians as the perpetrator of these murders. In my opinion, Colonel Ahrens cannot possibly have had any connection with the massacre of the Polish officers.

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The following list contains the names of those personalities who played an important part in the discovery and subsequent investigation of the massacre:

Captain (Med) Prof. Dr. BUHTZ, ordinary professor at the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Breslau, attached to the Central Army Group as a consultant court surgeon in the spring of 1943.

Captain (Med) Dr. SCHMIDT, from Southwestern Germany, also with the Central Army Group as a court surgeon in the spring of 1943.

Secret Police (Zone of Interior) Secretary VOSS, in charge of secret police (zone of interior) station 537, assigned to the Central Army Group in Krasny-Bor. His liaison men discovered the scene of the massacre and his unit conducted the disinterments with the help of Russian laborers. His office was the collecting point for all documents, exhibits, etc. found on the corpses. Also set up in his office were a workroom for the interpreters and a laboratory, in which the documents found on the corpses were cleaned and rendered legible. Voss also had to make arrangements to ensure that the delegation of the Polish Red Cross employed at the scene of the massacre would be untroubled in its work. Secretary Voss was from Magdeburg.

Dr. WODZINSKI, physician at the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Cracow. The Polish Red Cross had placed him in charge of the delegation that conducted the exhumations and reinterment of the corpses. He and the above mentioned medical officers of the Central Army Group jointly conducted the autopsies on the corpses. His primary concern was to forward any personal items found on the corpses to the next-of-kin.

Colonel v. GERSTORFF, in charge of the IC Section of the Central Army Group, who, as the competent officer, initiated the propagandistic evaluation of the massacre after its discovery.

Major KOST: Commanding officer of propaganda detachment W, which was assigned the propagandistic evaluation of the Katyn case. It was Major Kost from whom I received orders for the formation of the special group whose mission it was to manage the propagandistic presentation of the case. I remember the names of the following war reporters who were employed on this project: Sonderfuehrer (Special leader) A. Basner (radio reporter), 2d Lt. Uebelacker (radio technician), war reporter Koss (film), war reporter Neubauer (photography), and 2d Lt. v Arndt, 2d Lt. Scheibanflug, and 1st Lt. Ebenhoeh as correspondents. Since the front transportation control office at Smolensk directed all soldiers passing through the area to the scene of the massacre, Captain Vogelpoth, an officer of the detachment, was designated to instruct these soldiers about the murders. On particular occasions, for instance when important delegations, such as foreign journalists, international physicians, politicians, scientists, etc., came to Katyn, other members of the detachment were also employed to guide and instruct the visitors. At detachment headquarters in Smolensk, two unattached officers, Sonderfuehrer "K" Rodde and Sonderfuehrer "K" Schricker maintained permanent liaison with the Supreme Command of the Army, WPr., and the Propaganda Ministry.

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I can no longer recall more than a few names of members of the various delegations that came to Smolensk at the time of the disinterments. They are:

Secretary General of the Polish Red Cross, SKARWINSKI; Prelate Dr. JASINSKI, who had come as the representative of the Archbishop of Cracow; Colonel in the former Polish Army, PLAPPERT, who, like I, had attended the former infantry cadet school in Cracow; and, finally, the brother of the murdered Polish brigadier general SMORAWINSKI, who had come to identify the corpse of his brother.

Of the delegation of international court surgeons, who stayed at the scene of the massacre for several days and examined and dissected a great number of corpses Prof. ORSOS (Budapest), Prof. HAJEK (Prague), Prof. Palmieri (Italy), Prof. Naville or Neville (Switzerland), Prof. Costedoit (France), Prof. Miloslavits (Yugoslavia), Prof. De Burlet (Belgium or Holland), and others.

A delegation of members of Polish cultural life included writer and former Polish Minister KOSLINSKI, as well as the President of the Warsaw Academy.

By listing the names of persons who, to my definite knowledge, played an important part in or were present at the discovery of the killing of thousands of Polish captive officers as well as the exhumation and identification of their corpses in a forest near Gniesdowo, approximately 14 km from Smolensk, in the spring of 1943, I do not want to publicly expose or harm anyone. I merely wish to prove thereby that the assertion that I am the inventor of Katyn, which was published in the press on the strength of a letter held by my mother-in-law, is false and without foundation. I also declare that I am able to prove at any time the presence of the above mentioned persons in Katyn by means of photographs.

Since the end of the war, I myself have made no statements concerning the Katyn case, unless I was instructed to do so by official organizations, for example during interrogations.

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EXHIBIT IV

Slide 1 Two small birchwood crosses on a flat hill between pines and birches moving gently in the spring wind. "Erika" flowers, with the brownish color of fall, peep out from between the snow islets in the forest. We step closer to the small crosses, which were placed in the bright, sandy soil by compassionate people a year ago.

The vertical beam of one of the crosses has been split and the cross-beam sticks in the long cleft, tied to the vertical beam by a cloth rag.

A strongly moving picture, simple and devout.

This was the first scene we lit upon in the Katyn forest of the dead. The first chief witness of one of the most terrible crimes mankind has ever had to witness.

Polish workers who traversed the Katyn area with a German unit in the early summer of 1942 had received intelligence through conversations with Russian farmers that thousands of their compatriots had been shot in the forest along the highway two years previously. The Polish workers dug and dug, and indeed discovered corpses in Polish uniforms. Cursing the bolshevik murderers, they went on their way. In the course of the martial events, the matter was neglected for the time. But the two crosses of young birchwood remained there as remindful witnesses of an atrocious crime.

Slide 2 Another year later they, in conjunction with the statements of Russian farmers, were a suitable basis for the German Army to investigate this bestial murder and to life once and for all the veil covering the secret of the Katyn Forest.

Slide 3 Parfeon Kieselow, the 72 year old farmer from Kosygore, a hamlet near Katyn, did not want the secret of this horror forest to be buried with him. His plain and definite statements determined the rapid progress of the investigations. Along with Kieselow, other farmers from the neighboring villages came in.

Slide 4 All of them, the Andrejew brothers, Griwarserzew,

Slide 5 Godonow,

Slide 6 Enjekin Sladkow,

Slide 7 Saferow Selirjerstow, and whatever their names were, all came of their own free will to testify to the guilt of the GPU.

Slide 8 Russian farmers from the close vicinity of the murder forest had volunteered to disinter the corpses. They had come to know the methods of the GPU henchmen, and for years had witnessed how the intelligentsia of their nation, just like the 12,000 Polish officers later, were systematically butchered.

Slide 9 The excavation progressed rapidly and at a depth of only 5 feet the first victims were discovered. Polish uniforms,

Slide 9a officers' boots and belts, caps and the insignia of rank, which were plainly recognizable, proved the correctness of the assumption based on the statements of the Russian farmers: the Katyn massacre had been discovered. Within a very short time there was definite proof that what we had discovered was a crime of huge dimensions, a wholesale murder committed by the GPU.

Slide 10 At the spot where the excavations were first started, a pit, measuring 28x16 meters, was dug in a very short time. The upper layer of this pit contained approximately 250 corpses. Since, for sanitary reasons, the exhumation of the victims could not be accomplished to any great extent, the pit was probed to obtain the approximate dimensions of this first common grave.

Slide 11 The probe revealed that there were 12 layers of corpses piled one upon another. A simple computation revealed, then, that there were approximately 3,000 corpses buried in this first common grave alone. However, the work of the GPU henchmen had not been confined to this first place of execution.

Slide 12 Wherever the close vicinity of the first common grave was probed, new corpses of shot Poles and new graves were discovered.

Slide 13 In this manner, six more large common graves, whose total capacity was three or four times that of the first one, were exposed in due course. At the time when this report is to reveal the sadistic brutality of the GPU murderers, the full extent of this atrocious crime in the Katyn Forest still cannot be determined.

Slide 14 For wherever one digs into the soil in this forest, with its luxuriant growth of young firs between old pines, one discovers corpses and new graves.

Slide 14a I believe it is general knowledge that, with the advent of the warm weather and in view of the danger of epidemics, we had to interrupt temporarily the disinterments and postpone them until the fall. However, when examining the forest shortly before the close of this first work period, we discovered a new large burying-ground approximately 200 meters from the first graves. For sanitary reasons, only small sections of these new common graves could be laid bare. Here you see Dr. Wodzinski, the physician appointed by the Polish Red Cross, at the moment when he states that the corpses found here are also those of Polish officers who were murdered in the spring of 1940.

Slide 14b A view of the grave.

Slide 14c The first victim taken from the new common grave, a Polish captain. Cause of death: shot in the neck.

Slide 15 Therefore, it is reasonable to suppose that the testimony of the Russian farmers, who spoke of between 10,000 and 12,000 Polish officers that were shot here, are founded in truth. It should be recorded here that, subsequently, these Russian witnesses were at all times available to give accurate information to any delegations, such as the representatives of the foreign press, the leading personalities of the Polish nation, the people of the Polish Red Cross, delegations of Polish officers who are at present still interned in German POW camps, European poets and writers, delegations of international court surgeons, labor delegations from Poland, Germany and other European countries, and British and American officers, all of whom came to Katyn in a steady flow for a personal inspection of the catastrophe.

Slide 16 Here Kieselow, the old farmer, is questioned concerning his recollections by the Secretary General of the Polish Red Cross, at whose side the representative of the Archbishop of Cracow may be seen. This testimony is recorded through a microphone to be broadcast over the Polish radio system.

Slide 17 Here Kieselow is questioned once again, this time by captive Britishers, Americans, and South Africans, who are given an opportunity to see the crimes of their bolshevist allies with their own eyes.

Slide 18 Here Russian railroad-man Sacharow relates his observations, which primarily concern the circumstances of the prisoners' arrival at the Gniesdowo railroad station, to the representatives of the foreign press.

We think it necessary to state here, once and for all, that the German government shunned no effort to enable anyone that wanted to see this atrocious crime of Jewish Bolshevism in the Katyn Forest with his own eyes, to travel to the combat area.

Slide 19 A delegation of personalities prominent in the former Polish state, visits the scene of the crime. A member of this delegation finds a relative among the victims.

Slide 20 The Poles face the corpses of their former Generals Smorawinski and Bohaterewicz.

Slide 21 Polish legionnaires, who are now fighting Bolshevism, at the graves. Some of them also recognized their former officers.

Slide 22 A delegation of the Polish Red Cross at the common graves.

Slide 23 Deeply moved, these men stand at the graves of their compatriots who were bestially murdered.

Slide 24 The representative of the Archbishop of Cracov reading the funeral service. He scatters native soil over the corpses that have been arranged for identification.

- Slide 25 Captive Polish officers from German POW Camps examining the massacre.
- Slide 26 Here a German officer disseminates the evidence of the events antecedent to and the execution of this bolshevist atrocity that has been collected thus far to a delegation of European poets and writers.
- Slide 27 Poland's former Prime Minister Koslowski sees the bayonet wounds on the corpse of a Polish major. "Here Poland's youth was abominably slaughtered in the prime of life". With those words, the former statesman gives vent to his indignation and bitterness.
- Slide 27a At the request of the Polish Red Cross, the brother of the murdered General Smorawinsky was given the opportunity to attend the reinterment of his brother. Mr. Smorawinsky, on the right in the picture, in conversation with Swiss court surgeon Prof. Naville.
- Slide 28 British officers from German POW Camps personally pick a corpse.
- Slide 29 A German army surgeon identifies the corpse in the presence of the interested Britishers.
- Slide 30 As soon as the first corpses had been exhumed, the German army court surgeons also went to work.
- Slide 31 Post-mortem examinations commenced under expert supervision.
- Slide 31a Here a German army surgeon shown foreign visitors the point in the neck where the bullet entered the body.
- Slide 32 All of the victims distinctly showed the characteristic marks of the bolshevist henchmen: the obligatory shot in the neck,
- Slide 33 with the bullet leaving the body through the forehead.
- Slide 34 Here a projectile that came to a dead stop before it had quite left the body.
- Slide 35 A projectile, caliber 6.37 mm, which was lodged in a corpse.
- Slide 36 For a small part, the victims lay unbound in the graves,
- Slide 37 however, the majority were bound.
- Slide 38 A German army surgeon uses a corpse still lying in the grave to show the manner in which the victims were bound.
- Slide 39 This knot, a quite ingenious affair, had been employed uniformly to bind the victims.
- Slide 40 The hands of some of the victims had rotted in the noose, but the knot had remained intact.

Slide 40a Some of the victims had their heads wrapped in sacks or topcoats,

Slide 41 and one of the dead, who probably would not at all reconcile himself to his dreadful fate, even had his mouth full of sawdust, his coat tied over his head, his hands bound on his back, and two bullets in his skull. Indeed, more cruelly could a man not be murdered; worse yet if that man is an officer of a country with which one lives in peace, as was the case between Poland and the Soviet Union at that time.

Slide 42 Identification was considerably facilitated or made at all possible because nearly all of the victims had identification documents, letters,

Slide 43 note-books or diaries on them.

Slide 44 Some of the corpses were even found to still have their military identification tags.

Slide 44a The exhumations in the Katyn Forest also yielded valuable disclosures in the military and political field. As an Example, we show you here a corps combat order of the commanding officer of the 6th Army Corps, summoning his soldiers to surrender the city of Lvov. A passage of this order, which could be read and translated only under a quartz-lamp, is quoted below:

".....since you have now been given orders to evacuate your positions, be it said that we have in no way surrendered in combat to the Germans, but that we deliver up Lvov to the Soviet Armed Forces, whom we have neither fought nor had orders to fight. By surrendering, we save Lvov from total destruction and preserve you soldiers for your fatherland and your work." This combat order is particularly interesting because it proves the fact that Poland did not consider herself at war with the Soviet Union, and because it admits of the conclusion that the Soviets had pledged their word to safeguard the personal liberty of the Polish officers and soldiers.

Slide 44b Similar elucidation is derived from the following text of a combat unit order, a German translation of which I show here.

People have often wondered why the killers did not remove any and all clues to the identity of the victims before shooting them.

Slide 45 The answer to this is probably that the Polish officers had concealed many of their notes, for example in the lining of their coats and their boots, and that, at the time of the massacre, the Bolsheviks hardly expected the German troops ever to uncover their crime.

Slide 45a Prominent personalities of international forensic medicine, professors from twelve European countries, personally conducted a minute examination of this crime of the Jewish Bolsheviks, spending several days in the Katyn Forest.

- Slide 46 The international court surgeons dissect corpses of their own choosing beside the common graves.
- Slide 47 Professor Palmieri, Italy, determining the age of a corpse from the condition of the tissue. It was important here to determine whether the massacre of the Polish officers had taken place prior to the summer of 1941, the time at which Smolensk had been occupied. It is known, however, that the massacre took place a year and three months previously, that is in the spring of 1940, a fact, which was clearly and definitely confirmed in a final statement by the members of this delegation.
- Slide 48 Professor Hajek, Czechoslovakia, engaged in similar examinations.
- Slide 49 Professor Orsos, Hungary, proving the cause and time of death by means of the condition of the brain and skull bones to his Swiss colleague, Professor Naville.
- Slide 50 Professor Miloslavicz, Croatia, at work.
- Slide 51 Professor Saxen, Finland, with Professor Naville, Switzerland, Professor De Burlet, Holland, and Professor Costedoit, France. The objective conclusions, which the competent medical specialists of Europe arrived at as a result of their careful examination of the massacre and which were recorded by them in a communique, have given the world complete clarity in the Katyn case. It is the well-known statement, which the delegation of international court surgeons released to representatives of the foreign press upon their return to Berlin. It contains medical confirmation of the fact previously stated, after careful analysis of the available evidence, by the German army agencies entrusted with the investigation of the massacre and the delegation of the Polish Red Cross employed at the scene of the massacre: that, without the shadow of a doubt, Moscow is guilty of this crime.

The various papers, such as diaries, note-books, letters, and other notations, which were found on the corpses, were needed as a whole to obtain a clear picture of what happened during the imprisonment and the final days of these victims of the treacherous GPU system.

- Slide 52 First of all, it should be noted that the Polish officers were to a man religiously inclined. This assertion is substantiated by personal items found on almost all of them.

Slide 53 -----

- Slide 54 The letters and postcards found on the bodies all bear postmarks dated between the fall of 1939 and the spring of 1940. Here a postcard addressed to Captain Alfred Tatarka. Postmarks show that it was mailed in Warsaw on 6 February 1940 and arrived in Moscow on 24 February 1940.

- Slide 55 This postcard from Lvov to Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Antonowitsch Wosnewski shown the characteristics of a postal item from the territory occupied by the Russians: Russian surcharge, Russian stamps.
- Slide 56 While in Camp Kosielsk, the same addressee received a postcard from the German administration district of Warsaw, with a Polish postage-stamp and a Russian stamp showing that 6 February 1940 as the date of arrival in Moscow.
- Slide 57 A letter from Koenigshuette, Upper Silesia, addressed to Lt. Lukas,
- Slide 58 with marks to show that it was mailed on 13 January 1940.
- Slide 59 Nearly all of the prisoners still had the inoculation certificates issued in Camp Kosielsk. They are also dated prior to the spring of 1940.
- Nowhere in the records kept by the prisoners or in other notes found on them did we discover a date subsequent to May 1940. This, too, is definite proof of the time at which the murders were committed.
- Slide 60 A brief review of additional exhibits: The document certifying the bestowal of the decoration "Virtuti militari", which was found on Brigadier General Smorawinski.
- Slide 61 Also found on General Smorawinski: a silver cigarette case with the signatures of comrades embossed in gold.
- Slide 62 A cigarette holder with his initials,
- Slide 63 wood-carved, made in the camp at Kosielsk.
- Slide 64 A calling card taken from a corpse which still wore the armband of the Red Cross: army surgeon Major Dr. Wacław Ksieniewicz, one of the best known Polish physicians, the man who embalmed Marshal Pilsudski's corpse in 1935.
- Slide 65 A Polish Mohammedan, who was not spared, either, by the bolshevist murderers.
- Slide 66 A Polish engineer in civilian clothes. Hundreds of other civilians, members of the Polish intelligentsia, had been deported from Kosielsk already in January. They rest in peace in some other grave in Russia. Engineer Zajaczkowski had the honor of sharing a common grave with the officers.
- Slide 67 The numerous documents recovered from the victims of Katyn were continuously exhibited at a German army office. Every one was able and supposed to see them.

The leaders of the Polish nation,

Slide 68 the members of the Red Cross,

Slide 69 Poland's former Prime Minister,

Slide 70 the foreign journalists....., as well as

Slide 71 Britain's officers, who probably realized the atrocities of their allies here.

But now back to the victims of the GPU terror: Hard were the days in the winter months of 1939/40, when frost held the camps in its grip,

Slide 71a hunger raged and the prisoners were exposed to typhus and the most humiliating treatment. This carving on the lid of a cigarette case caricatures the drawing of rations, showing the prisoners begging for their soup. This is one of many similar wood carvings found on the dead. The only solace these Polish officers clung to in the months of misery, the solace of their religion, they were brutally deprived of.

Slide 72 In mid-December, only a few days before Christmas, the chaplains were sequestered from the other camp inmates. Previously, rigorous disciplinary punishment had been imposed on some of them for conducting religious services.

Slide 73 Army Chaplain Major Jan Ziolkowski, whose maimed corpse we recovered in Katyn, was the first

Slide 74 to be put in solitary confinement for 7 days by the GPU commissars in Kosielsk in December 1939, because he had dispensed religious solace to his captive comrades.

Slide 74a Here the identification found on Chaplain Ziolkowski.

Slide 75 The circumstances under which these 17,000 Polish officers went into captivity are related by Captain Felix Wroblewski, corpse No 0748, in a diary entry dated 28 September 1939: "We travelled through the Zmyzynka region to the Hanowka railroad station, where we arrived at 3 o'clock on 28 September. We were detrained and had to walk 4 kilometers to Kosielsczna. I was so enfeebled by hunger that I could barely make this distance. The entire trip, which I made in the company of Janek, Paramowski, and Orlenski, was taken up by yearning conversations and bitter tears shed at the thought of our beloved ones. The separation from Stefa showed me how much I love her. I long for her and Janka. Many an hour brings me close to desperation....."

And in another place: "The church has been adapted as a prison for our enlisted men. We officers have been given quarters in pig-sties which had been vacated after the pigs had died of red murrain. Bare, dirty,

rotten floors, rotten straw roof. When it rains we have to sleep on quite wet floors. We make wooden bunks from rotten boards, which we had to dry with our bodies; only one side, the other rots with the pig sty....."

Can there be any more drastic proof of the bestial manner in which the GPU henchmen ruled the Kosielsk POW Camp? This portrait, which depicts Captain Wroblewski, was drawn by one of his fellow-prisoners.

Slide 75a I mentioned before that we were able to extract everything worth knowing about the events preceding this atrocious GPU massacre from the diaries and other notes of the murdered Poles. The following note was found in a diary taken from an unidentified corpse recovered in Katyn:

Slide 75b "8 January 1940. Today the political prisoners, close to 100 persons, judges, state attorneys and others will be moved. It is terribly cold and these people are dressed only in summer topcoats, hats and low shoes. They look like ghosts. No one is admitted to them. It is said that they will be taken to Solowki on the Arctic Ocean. Why in such terrible frost?

9 January 1940. 41 centigrades below zero. What is happening to the unfortunates who were taken away last night?"

These words do not need any further interpretation, I believe. They are so written by a prisoner who was tormented by hunger and frost himself.

And then came the days of a spring, which followed the frost of winter, days which, for the captive Polish officers, too, were filled with yearning for their homes, wives and children.

In March the Bolsheviks started disbanding the Kosielsk POW Camp. The diary entries of the captive Polish officers for these days disclose an extraordinary wealth of information:

Slide 76 We think it best to quote here a passage from the diary of Polish Major Kruk, corpse No 0424:

"8 April 1940. I have not written anything for a long time, as not much has happened in all these starvation months. Lately, that is at the end of March, news of departure started cropping up. We thought it a grapevine rumor, as so often before in these cold and miserable winter months. And yet these rumors came true. Several groups were transferred from the "Skit" to our main camp. We are accommodated in the majors' wing. Yesterday a transport of senior officers was dispatched: 3 generals, 25 colonels, and the same number of majors. This morning I took a bath and washed my socks and handkerchiefs. After all, I want to be neat and clean when we set out for home. I will throw away the superfluous stuff. - Good riddance!

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After a thorough examination we were taken by car to the railroad station. A secondary railroad station. The Kosielsk railroad station has been cut off by a flood. We are entrained in prison cars under close guard. There are thirteen of us in one cell. Thirteen fellow sufferers, picked by chance! - The surroundings put a damper on our high spirits. Why this guard if we are going home?

Yes, we are travelling westward. Beautiful Hanne, I'll soon be with you again. There is still snow on the fields. My best friends Suchorski and Szafranski are in the next car.

Slide 77 9 April. The evening closes in, we have left Smolensk and arrived in Gniesdowo. The railroad station is swarming with soldiers. But that is Trojka, the GPU Police! We have had only a little bread and water for the last two days. It looks as if we have to get out of the train....."

No further entries.

Even more elucidatory is the diary of Polish Major Soliski, Corpse No 0490. It contains entries written yet in the Katyn Forest, presumably shortly before he was killed. Major Soliski writes:

"Early Sunday, 7 April. Following yesterday.....an illegible passage..... examination until 1140 hours. They humiliate us. Why? After all, we are supposed to go home! At 1455 hours we left the walls and barbed wire of Kosielsk. At 1650 hours we were led to a siding and crammed into prison cars, the like of which I have never seen in my life. It is alleged that 50% of all Soviet Russian railroad cars have been adapted in this manner. With me are Josef Kutys, Major.....illegible, 12 persons in all. There is room for 6 persons at the most. But, after all, I am going home to Danko and Eri.

8 April. At 0330 hours we leave the Kosielsk railroad station in a westward direction. At 0945 hours Jelnia railroad station. From 12 o'clock on we stand on a siding in Smolensk.

Slide 78 9 April. We are awakened a few minutes before five o'clock and grouped for transportation. We are to be taken away in automobiles. What is to come?

5 o'clock in the morning. From the crack of dawn the day is not off to a good start. We have been entrained in prison cars. Guards in the compartments. We enter a forest - a kind of summer rest center. Thorough search.....Watch, which showed the time as 0630 (or 0830) hours. They ask for wedding rings. They relieve us of roubles, passports, pocket-knives."

Slide 79 This much of the notes of the Polish officers. These diaries and notebooks, these last tormenting thoughts, often put on paper virtually on the brink of the grave, will forever remain the most eloquent accusers of a system which known neither mercy nor humanity.

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The German Army has unraveled all mysteries surrounding the Katyn Forest. The Polish Red Cross was called to the scene of the massacre and physicians appointed by this institution personally conducted the examination and identification of their compatriots who were bestially murdered.

One-half of the corpses of the 12,000 murdered Polish officers were exhumed, identified, and reinterred in new graves in the course of the first work period, lasting for ten weeks from 29 March to 7 June 1943. At the request of the Polish Red Cross, and in view of the danger of epidemics, the exhumations were then temporarily discontinued for the duration of the hot summer weather and postponed until the fall.

Slide 80 Beside the horrible scene of the massacre, a new burying-ground has now been established in the Katyn Forest, where the bodies of many thousands of murdered Polish officers now rest in the soil under a decorative cover of lawn and flowers. They are the bodies of those officers who laid down their arms much too soon, because they were misguided and trusted Bolshevism, trusted Bolshevism until they had to realize its full bestiality.

Slide 80a In the Katyn Forest rests the elite of a nation. Shot and dug in. --- Martyrs, who will forever challenge Europe's conscience: Fight and keep fighting - before it is too late.

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Headquarters United States Forces in Austria
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2
A. P. O. No. 77-A, U. S. ARMY

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Ref: IB/608/52

29 April 1952

SUBJECT: Information on KATYN Forest Incident

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff G2
General Staff U.S. Army
Washington 25, D.C.

*not read
as of 8 May*

1. Reference USFA letter, S-2-52, "Information on KATYN Forest Incident," dated 22 April 1952.

2. Forwarded herewith is an additional report from a USFA field agency concerning the KATYN Forest Massacre.

3. This office interposes no objection to release of information contained in Inclosure No. 1 to the Congressional Committee investigating the KATYN incident providing that:

- a. Identity of source is properly safeguarded.
- b. Identity of the casual informant who made contact with the source is properly safeguarded.

4. Copy of this report, to include Inclosure, has been forwarded to the Director of Intelligence, Headquarters, European Command, for information only, with instructions that contents are not to be released to Congressional Sub-committee currently in Europe.

5. Classification of this letter may be downgraded to "confidential" upon removal of inclosures.

1 Incl:
L-25995, 25 April 1952

L. D. Bothwell
L. D. BOTHWELL
Colonel GS
Acting Assistant Chief of Staff G2

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AGENT REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

Katyn Forest Incident

ACTION:

IB CIB IC OPNS

INFO:

IB CIB IC OPNS

RECORDS FILE

2. DATE SUBMITTED

24 April 1952

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO.

L/25995

REC'D

ACTION

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

The following information and attached Exhibits were obtained on 22 April 1952 from [Rudolf Loidl], an employee of VOeST (United Iron and Steel Works), Linz. Evaluation: Source "F" (reliability unknown); Information "3" (possibly true).

On 22 April 1952, the undersigned Agent interviewed [Rudolf Loidl], a guard leader, employed by VOeST Plant Security Section (Werksicherung). This Agent was introduced to [Loidl] by [Johann Edlinger], Chief of VOeST Werkschutz, a casual informant of this office. [Loidl] gave the following information in substance:

He was born in [Ebensee], Upper Austria, on 9 April 1909, has been employed by [VOeST] since 1945, and is presently residing at [Carlonegasse No. 15] in Linz - Kleinmuenchen. In May or June 1942, [Loidl] was a member of the 133rd Infantry Regiment of the German Army; his rank at that time was Stabsfeldwebel (Master Sergeant). His unit was advancing across Poland and had reached the Katyn Forest Area on their march towards Tscheverkovo and the Volkov Basin. It was on a very hot day, probably during the latter part of June 1942, when [Loidl] and his unit reached the Katyn Forest and observed a strong, sweetish, nauseating smell, as emitted by corpses. A group of Polish workmen were ordered to dig up the graves (Exhibit I). There were three (3) mass graves containing a total of approximately twelve thousand (12,000) corpses of Polish Officers. (Mass Grave No. 1 is shown in Exhibits II and III.) Most of the corpses had sawdust stuffed in their mouths, gold teeth had been removed, and every one of the victims had been killed by a shot in the back of the neck. Bundles of banknotes were found underneath some of the corpses, and some of them had been thrown in the grave with their hands fastened behind their backs. Corpses had been stacked up in nine (9) layers and [Loidl] stated that the stench was unbearable. Exhibits IV and V show mass graves No. 2 and No. 3. Exhibit VI shows German and Polish Doctors with their medical aids attempting to identify the victims. Exhibit VII shows the corpse of the commander of the Fortress of Lublin, name unknown to Source. His goldteeth had been removed and he was still carrying his papers.

Source explained that German troops first came to the Katyn area in the early Spring of 1941, when the ground was still frozen. At that time the graves were not discovered. Only when [Loidl] and his unit approached the Katyn Forest in June 1942 the mass graves were discovered because of the intense heat and the penetrating stench. Source stated that he overheard statements made by German and Polish doctors that decomposition of the corpses had progressed to an extent where they were certain that German troops could never have been in the area at the time when the murders were committed. Source also explained that the German Army never used the shot in the back of the neck to kill people.

Incl #1

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

WALTER E. BRILL, 430th CIC Det.

Sub Det. "B" (Linz)

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

Walter E. Brill

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AGENT REPORT

~~Security Information~~
24 April 1952

Katyn Forest Incident

AGENT'S NOTES:

It should be pointed out that Loidl has been very reluctant to give the information contained in this report. He emphasized that he frequently travels to the Soviet Zone of Upper Austria to visit friends and relatives, and if it became known that he gave this information to the US Element he would be subject to immediate arrest by Soviet Authorities at the demarcation line.

Exhibits I through VII are attached to only the first five (5) copies of this report.

FILE CHECK:

Files of this Sub-Detachment contain numerous reports concerning the Katyn Forest massacre. Edlinger and Loidl are listed as members of the VOeST Werkschutz.

APPROVED:

RAY A. NICHOLS
Major Arty
CO, Sub-Det. "B" (Linz)

Distribution:

8- Hq. 430th CIC Det.
1- Sub-Det. "A" (Salzburg)
1- Sub-Det. "C" (Vienna)
1- File

WALTER E. BRILL, 430th CIC Det.
Sub-Det. "B" (Linz)

Walter E. Brill
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EXHIBITS I THRU VII

Agent Report L/25995, Katyn Forest Incident, dated 24 April 1952.

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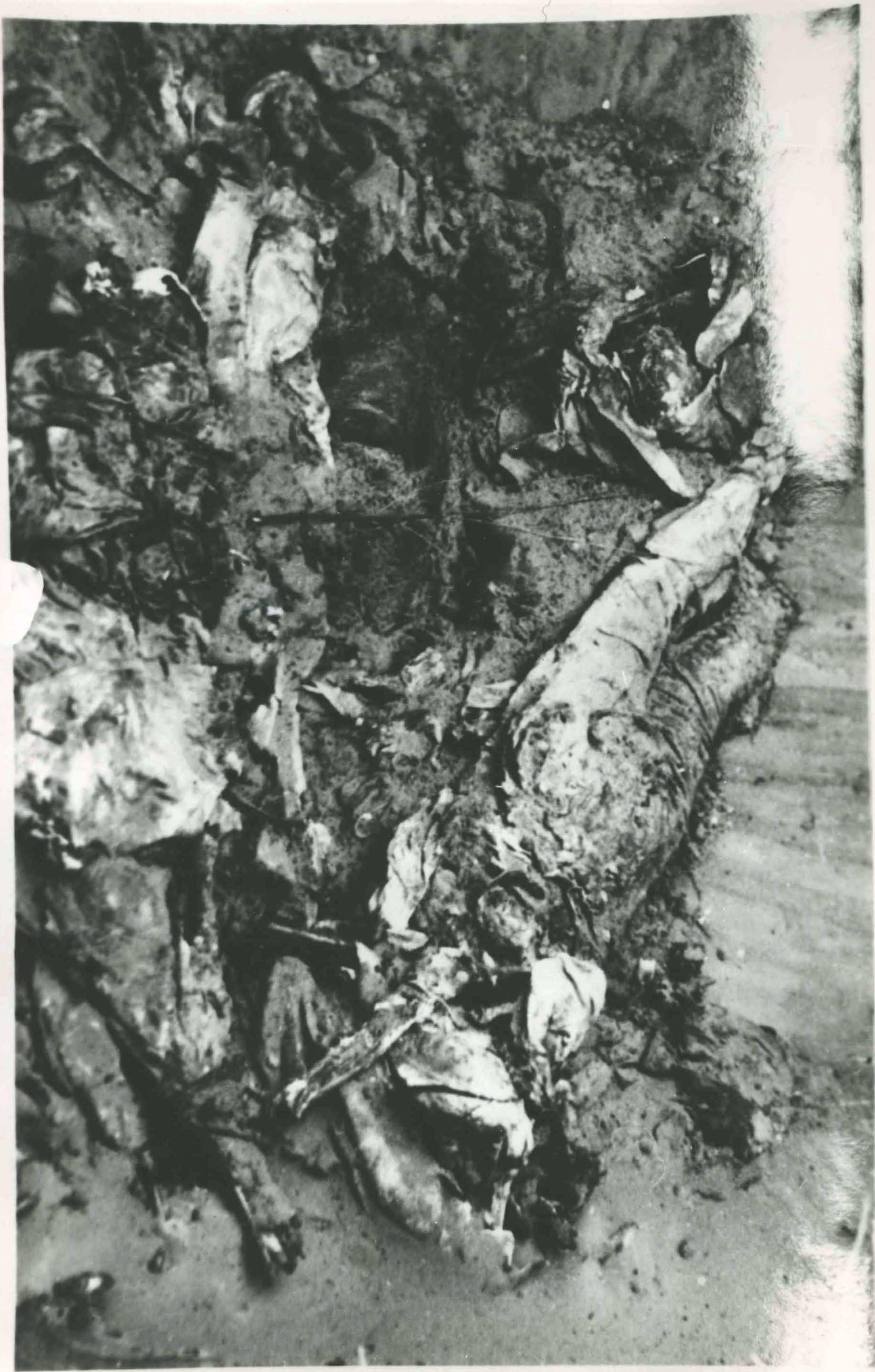


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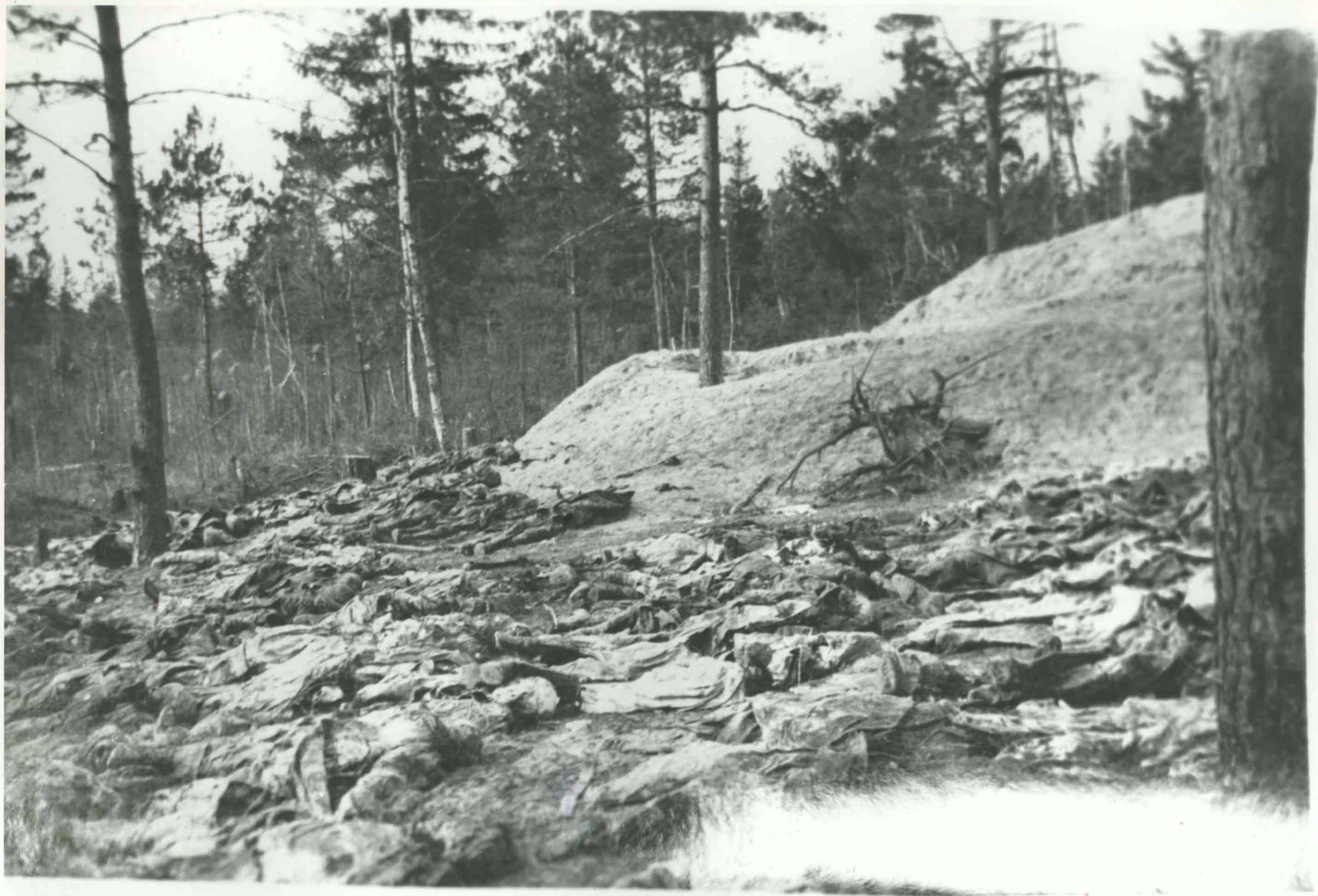
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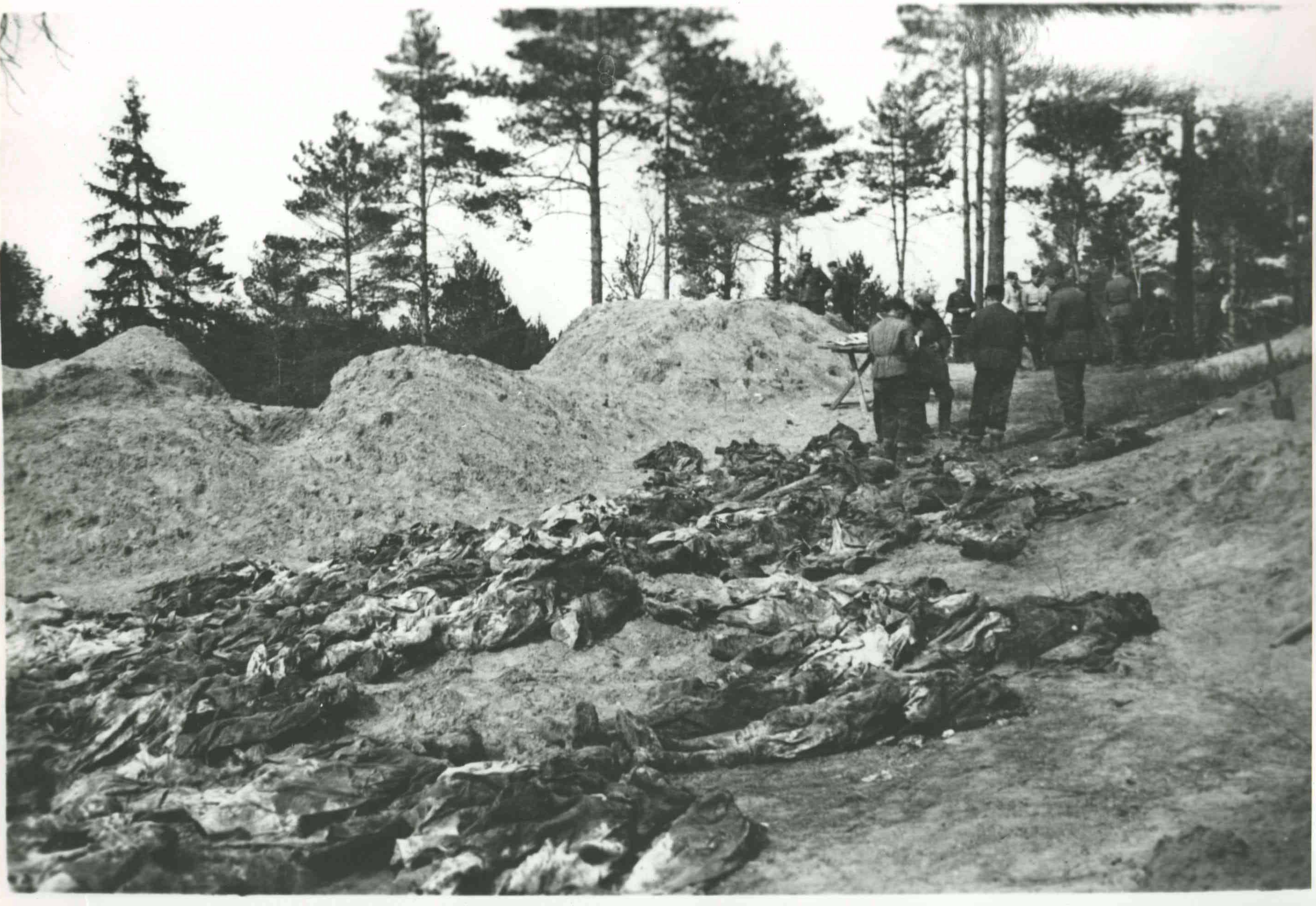


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